

Lessons From The Miracle Worker (Mark 7:31-37)

Proposition: Every person, saved or lost, must glean from the text before us tonight, instructive lessons from the real miracle worker concerning the truth of God's eternal salvation. Notice the lesson of...

- I. The Constraint of the Concerned (Vs. 32)
 - A. A Conveying Concern (Vs. 32a-b)
 - B. A Crying Concern (Vs. 32c)
- II. The Communication with the Cut-off (Vs. 33)
 - A. A Secluding Communication (Vs. 33a)
 - B. A Simple Communication (Vs. 33b)
- III. The Compassion of the Christ (Vs. 34)
 - A. An Interceding Compassion (Vs. 34a)
 - B. An Intense Compassion (Vs. 34a)
 - B. An Inspired Compassion (Vs. 34b)
- IV. The Celebration of His Capability (Vs. 35-37)
 - A. The Power of His Capability (Vs. 35)
 - B. The Promotion of His Capability (Vs. 36-37)

Lessons from Miracle Worker (Mark: 7:31-37)

In 1962 the movie entitled 'The Miracle Worker' was released in theaters all over the nation. It was a motion picture portrayal of the Life of Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan. I remember watching it on TV as a child. One particular scene in the movie was of the first dinner that Ms. Sullivan had at the Keller home. I was shocked to see how this young girl, Helen Keller would walk around the room eating hand full after hand full of food off of everyone's plate. All at the table carried on conversation as though Helen was not even there. She was isolated from her entire world because of her handicap.

I. The Constraint of the Concerned (Vs 32)

Jesus is making his way through Decapolis. If you will recall, Ch 5, there was a demon who after being set free, tore out to publish what A. A. Conveying Concern (Vs 32a+b) - After hearing of the Demons dramatic turnaround, and the reintroduction of Jesus into their midst, they must have put 2 and 2 together and had a mind to bring this other hard case to the Lord. Their concern went far beyond a wish to actually taking him by the Hand and bringing him to Jesus. The man confused and bewildered yet relented to their imploring. ^{Finally} ^{Parents}

B. A Simple Communication (Vs. 33b) - Look at the unusual things that Jesus is doing. Touching ears, spitting, touching tongue. Jesus is communicating in the simplest way possible. This man's problem. I'm going to deal with ear to

1) ...her handicap. The ability to communicate is and ability that connects us one to another. Without that, as many deaf people would attest, there is a sense of isolation and being cut off from the world around them. This must have been the life of the man in our text. A life of alienation and separation from the world around him. But then a miracle worker came to town and rescued him from isolated condition and brought him nigh to himself. Every person, saved or lost, can glean from the text before us tonight, instructive lessons from the real miracle worker concerning the truth of God's eternal salvation. Notice the lesson of...

2) Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3) ...as to make him feel isolated and alone even around his partying friends.

1) ...of this man. Oh that's what he still does today. When God deals with the heart of man, he is simply conveying the truth that we have a sin problem separating us from God and that Christ died to cure that problem, and if we would trust Him we can be brought into fellowship with God. Paul's fear was that Satan would corrupt them and turn them from the simplicity of the Gospel.

2) ...place his hand on him and on God. But now on this side of calvary there is according to 1 Timothy 2:5 one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

3) ...as if he weren't even there. My heart was broken over the shambles of the life before me! Poem - *I ask as I pass down the busy street, Is it only a crowd I see? Do I lift my eyes with a careless gaze, That pierces no deep-down woe? Have I naught to give to the teeming throng, Of the wealth of the love I know? Let me look at the crowd', the chorus says, 'as my Saviour did, Till my eyes with tears grow dim, Let me look and pity the wandering sheep, And love them for love of Him'.*

4) ...my words have power. But I don't have... It's his words that have power. Jeremiah 23:29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...

...clim'g on to deal with your tongue problem
Now this spit issue, confusing to us. But Will
in Barclay said that people of that time thought
spittle had healing properties. Jesus is coming
along the simple good news to the heart of this man.

III. The Compassion of the Christ (Vs 34)

What a picture of the compassion of the
Lord Jesus we have before us here. Notice

A. Interceding Compassion (Vs 34a) - He
looked up to heaven! The Lord Jesus
begins to intercede before God on behalf
of this man. Jesus here compassionately
touching this man's infirmity, now proceeds
to touch the heart of God! A Mediator! ch

- Joh 9:33 So he begged for a day or two to place his

B. An Intense Compassion (Vs 34a) - He
sighed. This is a deep heavy breath
of sorrow and compassion. The Lord
Jesus was moved by this man's pitiful condition.
I was at Ci Ci Pizza w/ boys one night I looked
over into one of the booths, a man alone dressed
in homeless garb. People walked in and about as if he

C. An Inspired Compassion (Vs 34b) -

Ephphatha - he opened, he loosed
the word and it was done. I say
inspired compassion because it was the
very word of God that opened this man's ears
and loosed his tongue. The vehicle of miracle
was the word of God. Word of faith movement, word

IV. The Celebration of His Capability (Vs 35-37)

This man he comes another shanter in that long line of miracles. And with astonishment his power is celebrated and commended.

A. The Power of His Capability (Vs 35)

Mark's favorite word: straightway instantly, at a moment's notice this man began to talk. He was no longer separated from those around him but was brought into fellowship and began to commune. In the movie the miracle worker. When it finally dawned on Hellen what Miss Sullivan was trying to teach her Hellen ran from place to place asking what this was and that was.

B. The Promotion of His Capability (Vs 36-37)

Jesus charged them not to spread it about. There were more things at stake than the curing of one man there is the saving of the world. Jesus tells them this in foreknowledge looking to the cross ahead! That was fulfilled as promise and now our lives are to be devoted to the miracle worker in our lives who brought our isolated lives of sin.

V. Closing -

Have your sins separated you from God? Is he drawing you apart simply communicating to you that precious truth of his death on the cross for you. Come and receive him today!

1) ...this was and that was. Water... grass... dirt... chair... Lines of communication were opened and whole new world opened up to Helen. The same is true for the new babe in Christ who is brought into a whole new world of eternal life and a loving God in heaven that leads and guided and loves!

2) ...lives of sin and shame nigh to his own saving life by virtue of His precious blood he shed on the cross! We are to propagate and celebrate Jesus our Saviour and Lord!